



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/773,491

02/06/2004

Wei-Jen Tseng

P-3641.272

6637

7590

03/08/2005

Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Suite 2100
112 E. Pecan street
San Antonio, TX 78205

EXAMINER

LEE, GUIYOUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/773,491 | Applicant(s) TSENG, WEI-JEN | |
| | Examiner Guiyoung Lee | Art Unit 2875 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-15, 17 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 5-6 are objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase "a second ring" in line 4 seems erroneous. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai (USPT 6,531,829 B1) in view of Ahroni (USPT 6,478,455 B2).

Re claims 1 and 16: Tsai discloses a decorative light supporting assembly having a bonding element (3 in Fig. 1) having multiple V-like bodies (33) interlinked with one another; support branch (2 in Fig. 6) and an arrow-shaped connector (21) integrally formed on a tip of each frame such that insertion of the arrow-shaped connector from each support branch into the corresponding V-shaped body is able to secure engagement between the bonding element and the support branch. Tsai, further, discloses clamps (50 in Fig. 3) and a concave portion (16a). Tsai does not disclose multiple support branches each having a frame with multiple fingers integrally formed in a periphery of the frame. Tsai only disclose a single bulb assembly. However, Ahroni teaches multiple support branches each having a frame (12) with multiple fingers (15 a-d) integrally formed in a periphery of the frame. Further, Ahroni teaches that "a conventional lighting strings has been provided with two more bulb-assemblies on the electrical wire at a near

Art Unit: 2875

by position for increasing lighting effect (col. 1, lines 8-11)". It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute Ahroni's multiple branches with Tsai's support branches in order to increase lighting effect as taught by Ahroni.

Re claim 2: Tsai discloses two guiding tracks (See the guiding tracks near 33 in Fig. 7) formed on distal ends of the V-like body to correspond to tracks defined in opposite side faces of the arrow-shaped connectors (21).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-15 and 17-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With regard to claims 3-4, the prior art of record, Tsai and Ahroni, fails to disclose a securing element as configured in the claims 3-4. With regard to claims 5-6, Tsai and Ahroni do not disclose that the bonding element has wings including ribs formed on an inner face of the wings. Furthermore, with regard to claim 9, Tsai and Ahroni does not teach that each protrusion has a pair of cutouts defined in opposite side faces of the protrusion so that a clamp with a bulb securely attached thereto and arms extending in different directions is able to engage with bottom faces defining the cutouts to securely attach the bulb on the protrusion. With regard to claims 17-18, the prior art of record does not disclose the frame set forth in the claims 17 and 18. Claims 7, 8 and 10-15 depend from claims 5-6. Therefore, claims 3-15 and 17-18 are patentable over the prior art of record.

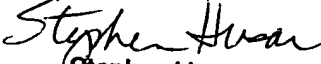
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY


Stephen Husar
Primary Examiner